CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1   Claim 1 (currently amended): A network management system for discovering information

2   about a network, comprising:

3   a plurality of <u>processing</u> nodes;

4   plural discovery agents on said nodes adapted to discover information concerning said

5   network;

6   each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery capability;

7   each of said discovery agents having an associated discovery assignment; and

8   collectively, said agent discovery assignments being a subset of said agent discovery

9   capabilities.

1   Claim 2 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein, collectively, said agent

2   discovery capabilities are overlapping and said agent discovery assignments are substantially

3   non-overlapping.

1   Claim 3 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery

2   assignments are based on said discovery capabilities.

1   Claim 4 (previously presented): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent

2   discovery assignments reflect one or more of data collection service registrations with said

3   plural discovery agents, agent cost to obtain network information, load balancing among said

4   plural discovery agents, and assignment churn.

1   Claim 5 (original): A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said agent discovery

2   assignments comprise one or both of inband and outband discovery assignments.

1   Claims 6-16 (canceled).

1   Claim 17 (currently amended): A network discovery agent for use in a data storage network,

2   comprising:

3   <u>a processing node;</u>

4   discovery capability logic <u>associated with said processing node</u> adapted to determine

5   and provide agent discovery capability information to a requestor, said agent discovery

6   capability information being a subset of all discovery information obtainable by said agent;

7   and

8   discovery query logic <u>associated with said processing node</u> adapted to implement

9   discovery queries based on agent discovery assignment information determined from said

10   capability information.

1   Claims 18-20 (canceled).